

# TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Those majestic trees that grace your grounds are a very valuable asset. Their great beauty, however, can change to a destructive force if they are neglected and allowed to deteriorate. Falling trees and limbs take a heavy toll in automobiles, buildings and present an exposure to personal injury. Trees not maintained present serious exposure under windstorm, heavy rain or snow conditions. Dead or weak limbs can easily breakaway and become airborne under high winds -- Diseased or damaged trees are susceptible to falling. Even during normal conditions, trees not maintained present a serious exposure to property and people around them. There have been many accidents involving falling limbs striking golfers or trees which have fallen on buildings or automobiles from moderate winds, heavy rains, flooding or snow loading. Trees, like any other club property, need inspection and maintenance.

## SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION IS THE KEY

The primary concern should be to protect people and property from falling trees and branches. This can be accomplished with a pre-planned, annual maintenance program conducted by a Tree Expert.

The club should have on staff, or retain through contracted services, a **certified Tree Expert and Arborist**. Your Tree Expert should start by concentrating on trees that present the greatest exposure to people and buildings. This would include trees that expose the club house, pro shop and other structures, patios, caddie waiting areas, first and tenth tees and greens, staging areas, outside or lightly enclosed dining areas, parking lots, cart paths, swimming pool areas, play areas and driveways. Dead, dying and diseased trees and dead wood must be removed. Weak branching problems may be corrected with bracing. Lightning rods can be installed to protect specimen trees.

Golfers frequently hit their shots left or right of the fairway into the trees. Make sure these wooded areas contain no deadwood waiting to fall on unsuspecting golfers, caddies or groundskeepers.

## WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB DO?

Groundskeepers, while they are not usually tree experts, can play an active role in tree care. They should look for potential problems such as: decaying or cracked trunks, dead branches, peeling bark, insect infestation, etc. Such defects should be report to your Tree Expert for necessary action. Major jobs can be performed most efficiently in the winter when access is good and play is at a minimum.

**Note from Bollinger Inc.:** While working on this safety bulletin we consulted with Robert B. Finnesey, president of Tree-Tech, Inc., Mt. Freedom, NJ. Rob is a certified Tree and Arborist and his company regularly services over fifty golf courses. Rob strongly suggests that the National Arborists Association be contacted for additional information to help preserve your precious trees. The NAA can be found on the World Wide Web at [www.natlarb.com](http://www.natlarb.com); through their E-mail address which is [NAA@NATLARB.com](mailto:NAA@NATLARB.com); or by telephone at 1-800-733-26522.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** - The information and suggestions presented by Bollinger Inc. in this Loss Control Technical Guide are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your club, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related, or other, laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter them to fit the specific hazards of your club and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and club's policies.